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REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed October 5, 2005, Applicants provide the following. Fourteen (14) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 19-32. Reconsideration of claims 19-32 in view of the remarks below is respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 19-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,808,662 (Kinney et al.) in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,687 (Craig).

With respect to claim 19, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references fail to teach at least each element of independent claim 19 and instead specifically teach away from the method as claimed. More specifically, the applied references fail to teach at least "receiving a request prior to the start time [of the simultaneous event] from a client apparatus to take part in the simultaneous event" as recited in claim 19. The Kinney patent fails to teach or suggest at least receiving a request before a start time, and the Office Action relies upon the Craig patent, suggesting that Craig describes the aforementioned limitation of claim 19 by allowing users to connect to the session prior to the scheduled presentation (see the Office Action, paragraph 3, page 3.) The Craig patent, however, specifically teaches away from receiving requests prior to the start time in that Craig specifically requires that a session has to be active prior to students accessing and joining the session. Specifically, Craig states, "the user at the instructor workstation will preferably initiate the presentation some time in advance. This will allow students that attempt to connect to the presentation some window of time to establish their connections." (Craig, col. 12, lines 10-12, emphasis added). Thus, the Craig patent specifically requires that the lecture presentation be initiated before students can connect, and users can connect to the

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presentation only after the presentation session has been started (i.e., after the start time). Once initiated, the presentation has been "started" because students may connect and assume control over the display of the slides on the student's workstation at that point even though the instructor has not yet begun speaking. (See Craig, col. 13, lines 20-29). Once the user connects to the server, the applet initializes in the user's browser and the user can "free browse" through the slides independent from the presentation given by the instructor.) As such, the presentation has started and it is irrelevant as to when the professor begins the lecture. Therefore, the Craig patent teaches away from the method as claimed, because the Craig requires a presentation to be started before requests to connect to the session can be received. Accordingly, claim 19 is not obvious in light of the applied references, and thus, dependent claims 20-32 are also not obvious in light of the applied references at least due to their dependence from independent claim 19.

Furthermore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to alter the Kinney reference to receive a request from a client prior to a start time. In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be motivation, teaching, or suggestion to combine the applied references (MPEP § 2143.01). Lack of motivation to modify a reference exists "if the proposed modification ... would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious." MPEP § 2143.01 (emphasis added). One skilled in the art would not modify the Kinney reference to receive a request from a client prior to the start time of the collaborative editing session, because the Kinney patent specifically requires that the collaborative editing session be activated by a master before other users can join the session. (See Kinney, col. 6, lines 10-20 and lines 57-62; and col. 8, lines 12-14.) The master device starts the collaborative editing session and acts as a listener that detects "hello" events from users attempting to join the collaborative editing session. (Kinney, FIG. 2A, reference numbers 210 and 212.) The first participant in an editing session becomes the master device that listens for requests to join from other participants (Kinney, col. 8, lines 12-14), thereby precluding client requests to join a collaborative editing session prior to collaborative editing session being initiated. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify the Kinney reference to receive a request from a client prior to a start time of the collaborative

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session, as Kinney specifically teaches away from such operation, and further, such a modification would change the principle of operation of Kinney. Thus, claims 19-32 are not obvious in view of the Kinney and Craig references.

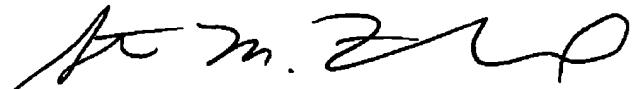
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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the above remarks demonstrate that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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